

east london newsletter



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having a sticky time with

WHY NOT TRY

THE GLUE POT?

Watneys?

Despite the fact that most beer drinkers see red whenever the name 'Watneys' is mentioned, their traditional Fined Bitter still remains on sale in many of their London pubs. Unfortunately, in true Watney tradition, it tends to be overpriced in many houses despite claims from the brewery that they are underselling it.

For anyone who has not tried Watneys Fined Bitter, we can strongly recommend the 'Glue Pot' on Old Street roundabout. Here, amidst a barrage of plastic keg fittings, is the somewhat bizarre porcelain mounting proclaiming 'Fined Bitter'. The beer is dispensed from the cellar by electric pump and anyone who does not believe that 'Fined Bitter' is a real ale should see the pint of sludge which is drawn up at the end of a barrel.

The pub itself has a modern frontage with a pleasant split interior. Darts are catered for in one half and the other is quiet and comfortable.

Watneys have justifiably been criticised for serving Fined Bitter only in London whilst ignoring East Anglia where they virtually have a monopoly. Nevertheless, the beer is certain not to be introduced in Norfolk if it does not sell well in London, so forget your prejudices for a night and give the Glue Pot a try. The price is 31p a pint which is reasonable for a beer of this strength.

Your heritage. Protect it.

These words should soon have a familiar ring to them once CAMRA's new membership drive gets under way. Here in East London we have lots of dedicated members who put a lot of work into the campaign. However more support is needed if we are to attain our aims.

We heartily encourage those members whose subscriptions have lapsed to re-join and help with our activities.

With the policies of the big brewers changing, particularly in London, we are receiving new information all the time about pubs converting to or from real ale. If you have any such information, please do not hesitate to send it to our secretary whose address is given overleaf.

If you have not yet joined CAMRA, why not come along to our next meeting where you will be assured of a 'cordial' welcome.

murphy's

BUILDING A REPUTATION

...at the old red lion

Down among the whelk stalls of the East End, things are certainly stirring these days. Hard on the heels of the Dickens Inn, St. Catherine's Dock, E.1, selling Fullers, Ruddles and Samuel Smiths, we now have The Old Red Lion at 217, Whitechapel Rd., dispensing Fullers, Ind Coope Burton, Sams, Youngs and Adnams.

The Old Red Lion? Almost opposite the London Hospital and once familiar to all in its emerald green livery, this Murphy's house has had a facelift. Now resplendent in its new beige and red colours, it has the proud legend 'London Ale and Burton Ale Free from Brewery Ties' emblazoned across its frontage.

Driving force behind the venture is Murphy executive, Patrick Fitzpatrick, who confirms that the object has been to produce a bright, cheerful decor in contrast to the drab surroundings of this part of London. The very cosy private bar certainly succeeds in this respect. Pat hopes to make The Old Red Lion a place where 'you can get an honest pint of beer at an honest price'. With E.S.B. at 32p, Burton 30p and Adnams 26p a pint, he could be right! Pat, who was formerly employed at the King and Barnes Brewery, is as able to discuss beers as well as any CAMRA buff and would welcome comments on which beers might prove successful at the pub - only a short time after your correspondent waxed fulsomely on Adnams, that particular brew was put on sale!

Landlord Phil Arkins also appreciates a good pint. Having been a tenant of a Charles Wells pub selling real ale, he is very proud of his cellar at The Old Red Lion and there is no doubt that his Burton compares very favourably with that sold in Ind Coope's own pubs. Those with strong traditional values will be relieved to learn that 'draught' Guinness is still available but with real ale at these prices it remains to be seen how long it is before the regulars are weaned from their pints of stout.

This is just one of Murphy's free houses in the London area and Miss Murphy (yes, there really is such a person - this is still a family business) has promised that if the introduction of draught beers at The Old Red Lion is a success then they will be introduced to other pubs in the group. (Most of you will be familiar with The Mackworth Arms (Murphy's), 158, Commercial Rd., which appears in the current edition of Real Beer in London.) So, it's up to us to prove that there is a demand for real ale in Murphy-land. Incidentally, there is no truth in the rumour that you need a brogue in order to gain access!

Proper meals are served at lunch-time at very reasonable prices and the pub is located about 150 yards west of Whitechapel Underground Station.

BRANCH INFORMATION

TEXT MEETING

at The Old Red Lion,
217, Whitechapel Rd.,
E.1

Tuesday, 18th January
at 7.30 p.m.

Recent additions

Flying Horse,
Wilson St.,
E.C.2

Courage Directors (H)

Beckton Arms,
Beckton Rd.,
E.16

A new pub serving.....

Ind Coope Bitter (H)
Ind Coope Burton Ale (H)

Deletion

Lamb,
Wilmot St.,
E.2

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